

STATEMENT

With a view to avoiding repetitive import of know-how, Government are considering the question of bringing about coordinated negotiation of collaboration agreements with foreign parties in fields where,

(i) a number of foreign collaboration agreements already exist and a new party applies for the same or similar know-how; or

(ii) where a number of new units in the same field are proposed to be set up in the country at about the same time, the object being,

(i) to reduce the outgo to foreign exchange and

(ii) to encourage indigenous research and technological development.

It is *not* the intention that Government would set up their own Central Agency or a Central Agency.]

H. M. T. PLANT IN CEYLON

*323. SHRI D. THENGARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Machine Tools propose to set up a plant in Ceylon for manufacture of machine tools ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal for Hindustan Machine Tools to set up a plant in Ceylon for manufacture of machine tools. Hindustan Machine Tools propose to render technical collaboration and assistance to a Ceylonese organisation in setting up a machine tools plant in that country. At the request of the Ceylonese organisation a detailed feasibility report for a machine tool plant in Ceylon has been prepared by Hindustan Machine Tools and the details are under discussion.

BUCKINGHAM CANAL AND COOUM RIVER

663. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some experts have recently been sent by Government to Madras to study the feasibility of drying up the Buckingham canal and the Cooum River for an underground railway system ; and

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the experts ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b) The question of providing underground railways or other types of transport in Metropolitan cities is presently under the consideration of the Study Team on Metropolitan Transport set up by the Planning Commission. The Railways are not yet aware of the final recommendations of the Study Team in regard to Madras City.

KARUR-DINDIGUL, MADURAI AND TUTICORIN RAILWAY LINE

664. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work on the conversion of the railway line for Karur-Dindigul-Madurai and Tuticorin from metre gauge to broad gauge has since been completed ; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the work is proposed to be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Not yet.

(b) The Fourth Plan proposals are yet to be finalised and it is too early to say whether this proposal would be included therein.

POLICY REGARDING AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

665. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present import policy regarding import of agricultural implements such as tractor ; and

(b) whether there has been any deviation from this policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Import of complete tractors is allowed through the State Trading Corporation from Rupee Payment Countries only. Import of tractor-drawn agricultural implements is not allowed.

(b) Import of a limited number of tractors as free gifts made by their close relatives abroad to Agriculturists for their own use has been allowed recently.

LICENCING OF ADDITIONAL AUTOMOBILE UNITS

666. SHRI B. K. MAHANTI:
CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tariff Commission has recommended that additional automobile units should not be licensed until the present manufacturers reach economic level of production;

(b) whether Government have considered the suggestion; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) While the majority recommendation of the Tariff Commission is that until the economic level of production is achieved by the present automobile manufacturers, it would not be advisable to license any additional unit, one of the members of the Commission has, in a dissenting note, expressed the view that since the existing units do not hold out hopes of reduction in costs there is no alternative but to allow new entrants who promise to do so.

(b) and (c) Government have agreed with the view of the dissenting number as they consider that it should be

open to them to license a new unit of economic size for the manufacture of passenger cars to enable the advantage of 'transfer line' production and economies of scale to be availed of and to introduce an element of competition with its resultant benefits in the shape of better quality and cheaper prices.

LOW TEMPERATURE CARBONISATION PLANT

667. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS:
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a low temperature carbonisation plant during the Fourth Five Year Plan Period;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Orissa has approached the Central Government to set up the plant in Orissa; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) to (c) Proposal for a low temperature carbonisation plant for making coke suitable for use in making pig iron, as part of the Industrial Complex at Talcher (Orissa), has been received from the Orissa Government. The further consideration of this plant will depend on the success of pilot scale studies on an experimental basis.

INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR TEXTILE MILLS

668. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an incentive scheme is about to be introduced in the Textile Mills for excess production of grey dhoties and sarees; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, with effect from the 2nd May, 1968, cotton textile mills, producing controlled cloth in excess of their statutory obligation, are entitled